## The original documents are located in Box 128, folder "Connor, James (8)" of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Nessen Papers, Box 129, "Connor, Jim - 1976/77 (2)"

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## THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

May 11, 1976

#### ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

JIM CONNOR JE

The President reviewed your memorandum of May 10 forwarding a copy of the Tyler Junior College News. The following notation was made:

"So true!"

cc: Dick Cheney

May 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL WHITE HOUSE/EOB STAFF

FROM:

JAMES E. CONNOR

SECRETARY TO THE CADINET

AND STAFF SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Inter-office Telephone Dialing System

As you are aware, an updated telephone directory for the White House and EOB staff was issued in April.

With this new directory available, I am requesting that you use the direct dial extensions in the directory when you are making calls to individuals and offices in the White House/EOB complex.

The burden on the White House Operators is always very great, but in an election and Bicentennial year, it is especially heavy because of the many requests they receive from outside callers asking for information. To add to the Operators' duties by asking them to place calls which members of the staff could dial directly is both time consuming and burdensome.

While the Operators are always willing to be helpful, we do not wish to impose upon them more than necessary. The directory contains a great deal of information about White House services in addition to extensions for members of the staff and the various EOB offices, and I urge you to make proper use of it.

I would appreciate your bringing this matter to the attention of new members of your staffs when they come on board.

Thank you.

June 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CONNOR

FROM

RON NESSEN

In response to your questions about network coverage of the July 1-5 period, they plan live coverage only on July 4 itself. NBC and CBS will be on the air continually from 8 a.m. to late at night, including live pickup of all the President's activities that day. ABC will have live, but not continuous, coverage of the July 4 activities. All the President's activities will be live on ABC also.

Bicentennial events on July 1, 2, 3 and 5 will be covered by the networks like any other news stories and will be used on their regular news programs depending on the network's judgment of their news value.

Bob Mead and I have had informal conversations with the networks and to be perfectly realistic, there is virtually no chance of live network coverage beyond the schedule outlined above.

Attachment: UPI wire story on television coverage

cc: Jack Marsh



WASHINGTON

June 14, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

IIM/COMNOR

SUBJECT:

Media coverage of Bicentennial

Jack Marsh has raised a number of questions about the Bicentennial and would appreciate your response to them.

1. What coverage, if any, do the major networks have for the period July 1-5th. Can we get some idea of where they are going to be and what events they feel are worthy of coverage? Have we thought of any suggestions to make to them?

May I have your response by co.o.b. Wednesday, June 16th? Thanks.

WASHINGTON

June 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SEE DISTRIBUTION

FROM:

BOB MEAD

SUBJECT:

FOURTH OF JULY TELEVISION

For your information, I pass along the television plans of the three major networks for Saturday, July 4, 1976 in celebration of the Bi-centennial.

CBS PLANS "LIVE" TELEVISION COVERAGE OF BI-CENTENNIAL EVENTS STARTING AT 8am AND CONTINUING UNTIL MIDNIGHT.

NBC TELEVISION PLANS ARE THE SAME.

ABC TELEVISION PLANS ARE TO BROADCAST "LIVE" DURING THE FOLLOWING HOURS:

10:30am-11:30am

1:30pm-2:30pm

9:00 pm - 10:00pm

For your planning you should be aware that all Presidential activities during the day, with the exception of the fireworks observation, will be broadcast "live" nationwide on all Networks. (ABC would adjust their schedule before or after the above times to insure an inclusion of the President.) I rejected the networks request of showing the President watching the fireworks for two reasons: 1. They would need to set up lights for him, thus he could not view them. 2. He would be put in a lighted scene with darkness around him, which I felt was a security situation.

They have also requested cameras to be able to show him talking to Pasadena and Viking landing later that evening. This will have to be weighed for consideration.

DISTRIBUTION

DICK CHENEY DAVE GERGEN JERRY JONES BOB ORBEN BILL NICHOLSON RON NESSEN

TERRY O'DONNELL

JIM SHUMAN

MARGITA WHITE DICK KEISER

RED CAVANEY DOUG BLASER A A

#### BC-IV ADV1920-2TAKES 6-15

ADV FOR WEEKEND JUNE 19-20

TELEVISION IN REVIEWS

SMALL SCREEN PLANS BIG BIRTHDAY PARTY

BY JOAN HANAUER

UPI TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (UPI) -- THE THREE TELEVISION NETWORKS WILL BE SINGING "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON JULY 4 AS THEY IRAIN THEIR CAMERAS ON SAILBOATS IN NEW YORK, RODEOS AND "POWWOWS" IN THE WEST AND A CHICANO FESTIVAL IN LOS ANGELES.

ALL THREE NETWORKS WILL BE TURNING OVER A LOT OF AIRTIME TO THEIR NEWS DEPARTMENTS.

CBS RUNS FROM 8 A.M. IO MIDNIGHT, EASTERN TIME, WITH WALTER CRONKITE AT THE HELM OF AN ALL-DAY AND HALF THE NIGHT PROGRAM CALLED "IN CELEBRATION OF US."

NBC WILL RUN AN 8 A.M. TO 6 P.M., EASTERN TIME, EXTRAVAGANZA CALLED "THE GLORIOUS FOURTH," TO BE FOLLOWED AFTER AN HOUR OF LOCAL ACCESS TIME BY THREE HOURS OF PRIME TIME ENTERTAINMENT, TOPPED OFF BY A FINAL RICENTENNIAL NEWS HOUR 10-11 P.M., EASTERN TIME.

ABC WILL TAKE A DIFFERENT ROUTE. JUST AS IT DEPARTS FROM ITS BRETHREN BY NOT PROVIDING GAVEL-TO-GAVEL COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING CONVENTIONS. SO IT WILL PROVIDE MORE LIMITED -- BUT IT HOPES REWARDING -- COVERAGE OF THE BICENTENNIAL FOURTH OF JULY.

ABC WILL COME ON WITH THREE ONE-HOUR SEGMENTS OF BICENTENNIAL PROGRAMING ON THE PART OF THE NEWS DEPARTMENT -- ONE IN THE MORNING, A SECOND IN THE AFTERNOON, AND FINALLY A WRAP-UP FROM 10-11 P.M., EASTERN TIME.

IT ALSO WILL SHOW THREE HOURS OF SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMING DURNG THE 7-10 P.M., SEGMENT, EASTERN TIME.

DURING THE DAY ALL THREE NETWORKS WILL BE COVERING SOME OF THE MORE OBVIOUS BICENTENNIAL EVENTS, INCLUDING THE MORE THAN 200 SAILING SHIPS THAT WILL SWING INTO NEW YORK HARBOR, THE FESTIVITIES AT THE WASHINGTON, D.C., MALL, THE RINGING OF THE LIBERTY BELL IN PHILADELPHIA AND PRESIDENT FORD'S ADDRESS THERE. THE LANDING OF THE VIKING SPACECRAFT ON MARS.

OTHER EVENTS ALL THREE NETWORKS PROBABLY WILL COVER WILL BE A FOLK FESTIVAL IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND A SHOWBOAT SETTING SAIL FROM ST. LOUIS, MO.

ON A NETWORK-BY-NETWORK BASIS, HERE'S WHAT TO EXPECTED, STARTING WITH THE LONGEST BICENTENNIAL DAY, THE ONE AT CBS:

CHARLES KURALT, WHO DOES THOSE SPLENDID "ON THE ROAD" REPORTS FOR THE NETWORK, WILL BE HANDLING THE REPORT ON OPERATION SAIL.

HUGHES RUDD AND SYLVIA CHASE WILL BE ON AND OFF DURING THE DAY WITH AN "ALMANAC" OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

CHARLES OSGOOD WILL MEET A WAGON TRAIN THAT HAS WORKED ITS WAY THROUGH ALL 50 STATES WHEN IT ARRIVES AT VALLEY FORGE, PA., TO STAGE ITS OWN MUSICAL.

REISTAIR COOKE ANCHORING A BRITISH CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL.

MORE

UPI 06-15 09:19 AED

#### BC-IV ADV1920-1STADD 6-15

X X X BICENTENNIAL.

OTHER EVENTS TO BE COVERED INCLUDE A TRIBUTE TO LOUIS ARMSTRONG FROM NEW ORLEAMS, WHERE HE WAS BORN ON JULY 4; AN INDIAN POWWOW IN CARNEGIE, OKLA., AND AN ECUMENICAL RELGIOUS SERVICE, "ONE NATION UNDER GOD," LIVE, FROM MIAMI.

VALERY HARPER, DANNY KAYE AND BEVERLY SILLS WILL BE AMONG THE CELEBRITIES WHO WILL DROP IN TO HELP CRONKITE HOST THE BIRTHDAY GALA.

NBC NEWS PLANS ON REACHING MORE THAN 50 LOCATIONS DURING ITS "GLORIOUS FOURTH" COVERAGE. ASIDE FROM THOSE EVENTS THAT ALL THE NETWORKS ARE COVERING, NBC WILL TRY TO SHOW HOW AMERICANS ARE CELEBRATING TOGETHER.

THAT INCLUDES ATLANTA'S "SALUTE TO AMERICA" PARADE, THE READING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN BOSTON BY A DESCENDANT OF ONE OF THE SIGNERS, SUNRISE AT GRAND CANYON, AN INDIAN POWWOW AND CEREMONIAL DANCE AT FLAGSTAFF, ARIZ., A RIVERSIDE CONCERT OF AMERICAN MUSIC FROM FORT WORTH, TEX., AND THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN FESTIVAL, WITH THE PARADE OF 1,000 FLAGS, AT THE ALAMO AT SAN ANTONIO, TEX., AS WELL AS THE LOUIS ARMSTRONG SALUTE.

AFTER AN HOUR'S RECESS FOR LOCAL PROGRAMS, THE NETWORK WILL RESUME WITH PAUL ANKA AND HIS FAMILY HOSTING A 7-8:30 P.M., EASTERN TIME, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA," A PAGEANT WHOSE CAST INCLUDES 6,000 STUDENTS AND ASSORTED CELEBRITIES FROM TWO ASTRONAUTS TO EVEL KNIEVEL.

THEN COMES A 90-MINUTE BOB HOPE SALUTE TO THE BICENTENNIAL, WITH SPECIAL GUESTS SAMMY DAVIS JR., DEBBIE REYNOLDS, AND DONNIE AND MARIE OSMOND, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A FINAL HOUR WRAPUP OF THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

ABC HAS A SPECIAL PROBLEM, BECAUSE IT IS TRYING TO COMBINE HIGH SPOT LIVE COVERAGE WITH PACKAGED MATERIAL IN THREE HOUR-LONG SEGMENTS.

"THE FINAL SEGMENT DEFINITELY WILL BE FROM 10-11 P.M., EASTERN TIME," SAID ARTHUR HOLCH, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF 'ABC NEWS GOES TO THE GREAT AMERICAN BIRTHDAY PARTY.'

"THAT'S THE ONLY SEGMENT IN WHICH WE CAN BE SURE OF THE TIME. IN THE FIRST HOUR -- THE MORNING HOUR -- SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE WE WANT TO PICK UP PRESIDENT FORD LIVE MAKING HIS REMARKS IN FRONT OF INDEPENDENCE HALL IN PHILADELPHIA. WE THINK WE'LL BE ON THE AIR FROM 11-NOON, EASTERN TIME, BUT IT MIGHT BE EARLIER, DEPENDING ON THE BEGINNING OF FORD'S MORNING ADDRESS. "IN THE SECOND HOUR, WE WOULD LIKE TO FEATURE THAT PART OF OPERATION SAIL AND THE INTERNATIONAL NAVAL REVIEW WHERE THE SENIOR REVIEWING OFFICER -- WHICH WE ASSUME WILL BE PRESIDENT FORD -- WILL BE ABOARD THE USS WAINWRIGHT. THE WHITE HOUSE NOW SAYS HE MAY COME TO NEW YORK IN MIDAFTERNOON. BUT BECAUSE OF THE TIDES, THE SENIOR REVIEWING OFFICER MUST BE OFF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE AND ONTO THE WAINWRIGHT BY 2:30 P.M. EASTERN TIME."

IN THE EVENING ABC WILL PRESENT AN HOUR-LONG EVOCATION OF THE OLD AND NEW WEST FROM 7-8 P.M., EASIERN TIME, NARRATED BY CHAD EVERETT, HENRY FONDA AND BUFFY SAINTE-MARIE.

IT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY "THE NEW LAND," THE SECOND OF A TWO-PART SERIES STARRING LIV ULLMANN AND MAX YON SYDOW, IN THE TALE OF A PIONEERING SWEDISH EMIGRANT FAMILY, WHICH SETTLED IN THE MINNESOTA TERRITORY IN THE 1800S.

ADV FOR WEEKEND JUNE 19-20 UPI 06-15 09:29 RED

June 29, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DR. JAMES CONNOR

FROM:

RON NESSEN

SUBJECT:

BICENTENNIAL SPEECHES

AS you know, the President will deliver a series of speeches during the Bicentennial weekend, July 1 to July 5.

To give these speeches greater historical significance and indicate to the press that they are far more than routine, we would like to have them presented, as press releases, in a distinctive folder, and with a special letterhead. The folder and letterhead would be modest and tasteful.

Please authorize the Purchasing and Accounting Office to contact the Government Printing Office Technical and Development Division to provide us with design and type proofs, as quickly as possible.

RN/JS/cg



July 6, 1976

#### ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

JIM CONNOR SE &

SUBJECT:

Special Kiplinger Magazine November 1948

"What Dewey will Do"

The above mentioned Special Kiplinger Magazine of November 1948 was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation:

"What a story.

The <u>Tribune</u> wasn't the only one to make a mistake.

I wonder what the following <u>Kiplinger</u> booklet\_said."

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

Jim Shuman (with the Kiplinger Magazine)

#### MEMORANDUM FOR DR. JAMES CONNOR

FROM:

Connie Gerrard

Ron Nessen would like to have the following books on the Presidency:

THE MAN WHO PARDONED NIXON

By Clark Mollenhoff

THIRD PARTY PRESIDENT

By Paul Blackburn

Heritage Press 513 C Street, NE Washington, D.C.

Cost: \$3

Is it possible to get these within the next day or two?

Thank you!



#### THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

July 21, 1976

#### ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RONALD NESSEN

FROM:

JAMES E. CONNOR JEC

SUBJECT:

Article from Plattsburgh

Press-Republican

The President reviewed your memorandum of July 20 on the above subject and the following notation was made:

"Great coverage"

cc: Dick Cheney

August 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Ron Nessen, Fress Secretary to the President .

FROM:

Secretary to the Cabinet

SUBJECT:

White House Swimming Pool

The President has requested that the White House swimming pool be made available for your use as an exercise facility.

The pool will be available for your use from the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. It will not be available on Weekends. A set of regulations governing the use of the pool is attached for your information. Please note that staff members are not permitted to bring guests or family to the pool and that entrance will be via the South West Gate in order to avoid excess traffic on the grounds outside the Oval Office and Study.

If you have any questions, please refer them to my office on Extension 6697.

Attachment

#### WASHINGTON

#### August 1976

#### REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF THE WHITE HOUSE SWIMMING POOL

- 1. The pool will be available for use by authorized individuals from 7:30 a.m to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- 2. Use of the pool is for the purpose of physical exercise rather than recreation.
- 3. Food and beverages are not permitted in the pool area.
- 4. Bath house facilities are provided and individuals using the pool should change at the bath house. Keys to the bath houses are available from the EPS Officer at the C-8 Post, the post nearest the pool. Entrance to the bath house and pool should be via the South West Gate only to avoid traffic outside the grounds near the Oval Office and Study.
- 5. Prior to entering and leaving the pool area, individuals should report to the Executive Protection Service Control Center on Extension 2581.
- 6. Individuals authorized to use the pool are not allowed to bring guests or family members.

WASHINGTON

August 6, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

JAMES E. CONNOR JEE

The President reviewed your memorandum of August 3 concerning the September issue of the <u>Saturday Evening Post</u> containing an article and photo layout on Mrs. Ford. The following notation was made:

"Thanks - Great article"

cc: Dick Cheney

#### MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES CONNOR

FROM:

Connie Gerrard
Press Office

Would it be possible during the Convention-Vall period (August 17-29) to have Ron Nessen's office repainted, and the carpet, sofa, and chair seats and draperies cleaned?

I have discussed this with Bob Costanzo of GSA, who said that from their standpoint, there is no problem. This is the formal request to have that work done.

Ren's office has not had any major repairs done since it was decorated in 1972 for the 2nd Nixon term. As you know, it is heavily used, and badly needs the face-lifting.

Thank you.



WASHINGTON

August 12, 1976

#### MEMORANDUM FOR GSA

FROM:

Connie Gerrard

Ron Nessen's office

The two colors decided on for paint for Ron Nessen's office are:

Walls and ceiling

14-5

Creamy white

Trim

8-46

Blue-grey

These numbers are written BELOW the color swatches in the Benjamin Moore paint sample book.

Thank you.

#### MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES CONNOR

FROM:

Connie Gerrard
Press Office

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Thank you,



### THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

(a. FORD

RHA

August 12, 1976

MEMO FOR:

Jim Connor

FROM:

Ron Nessen

SUBJECT:

Press office coverage, week of Aug. 16-20

Would you please approve this request and arrange for one person from the Correspondence Office to work in the press office during the week of August 16-20.

One of the people we anticipated working here must now go the hospital, and therefore this leaves coverage by only Jim Shuman and Rachel Hesselink. Kathy Marshall has been highly recommended, but if she is not available, could we have some one (basically to answer phones).

Please advise. Thank you.

We are fully committed for Convention Week so D'in afrail we can't comply. If anything frees up, D'ell get in touch MAZ

#### WASHINGTON

August 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SANDRA WISNIEWSKI

FROM:

DAVID C. HOOPES

SUBJECT:

Maternity Leave

Your maternity leave request for the period of September 10 to November 12, 1976 has been approved. You also requested 9 additional weeks (November 15, 1976-January 14, 1977) of leave without pay status. That request has also been approved, provided you determine on or before November 12, 1976 and provide this office with written notice that you will or will not return on January 14, 1977. That written notice should be received by this office on November 12, 1976.

Thank you.

cc: Ron Nessen Bob Linder Jim Rogers



WASHINGTON

August 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JAMES CONNOR

THROUGH:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

AMPROVED. RHV SANDRA WISNIEWSK

SUBJECT:

MATERNITY LEAVE

This is a formal request for maternity leave to go into effect the week beginning Monday, September 13, 1976. I understand from talking to the Personnel Office and the Payroll Office that I am to use the time I will have accrued in annual leave and sick leave before going into a leave without pay status. I am told that as of Friday, September 10, I will have accrued 3 weeks in annual leave and 6 weeks in sick leave. These nine weeks would carry me on the payroll through Friday, November 12. Beginning the week of Monday, November 15, I request that I be carried on a leave without pay status for maternity purposes for an additional 9 weeks which would carry me until Friday, January 14, 1977. At this time, I would either exercise any opportunity to return to active employment at the White House or be dropped from the rolls.

Ron, I would appreciate your approving this request as soon as possible and forwarding it on to Jim Connor for his approval. If there are any questions, please let me know.

cc: Jim Rogers, Personnel Office



## THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

September 1, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

JIM CONNOR JE &

SUBJECT:

Picture from John Chancellor of NBC

The President reviewed your memorandum of August 30 attaching an autographed picture from John Chancellor of NBC and made the following notation:

"Great photo. Should I sign letter?"

The President asked that the photobe given to Dorothy Downton for his collection.

Please follow-up with other action.

cc: Dick Cheney
Dorothy Downton

O regime gen Connor September 3, 1976 Dear Johns Thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending me that autographed picture of the mob scene on the Convention floor right after my acceptance speech. Those NBC floor reporters never give up! That was a hectic few minutes in the aisles, but I wouldn't have missed it for the world! Thanks again. I hope to see you some time during the campaign season. Betty joins me in sending you our very best wishes. Sincerely,

Mr. John Chancellor NBC News Thirty Rockefeller Plana New York, New York 10020

GRF:RN:ib



September 7, 1976

#### ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

JIM CONNORZE

The attached newspaper article was returned in the President's box with the following notation:

"Did you see this by Les Kinsolving?"

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

Attachment:

Article from HUMAN EVENTS of 9/11/76 entitled: "The Bizarre Activities of the National Council of Churches"



What You Can Do to Stop Them

THE TOPOTPENT HAS SEEN ....

One of the nation's leading far-left, tax-exempt pressure groups espouses causes rarely in agreement with the opinions of the rank-and-file of its individual financial supporters BU LECTED VINCOLVING

The Bizarre Activities of the National Council of Churches

# HEIRARI EVENTS

v 1976 by Human Events, Inc. VOL. XXXVI. No. 37

SEPTEMBER 11, 1976

50 cents

#### Endorsed Pro-Abortion Book in '72

## Carter Abortion Stance Could Derail Campaign

## In this issue...

Page

Who's Behind National
Council of Churches?

By Lester Kinsolvino



## Where Your Tax Money Goes

By M. STANTON EVANS

.

#### World Bank Generous to Its Executives By ROBERT S. ALLEN

## THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

September 8, 1976

#### ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

JIM CONNOR JE &

SUBJECT:

U.S. News & World Report September 13, 1976

The President reviewed your memorandum of September 7 concerning the September 13th issue of <u>U.S. News and World Report</u> with the following notations:

"How many?"

'Check with me. I read both and I liked ours."

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

#### September 11, 1976

MEMORANDUM POR:

JIM CONNOR

FROM:

RON NESSEN

SUBJECT:

ATTACHED MEMO FROM ELEANOR CONNORS

Obviously, Jim, this memo from Eleanor is highly objectionable to me.

It follows a phone call from Eleanor in the same tone.

I am sure you agree this has already gone too far.

Attachment



WASHINGTON

September 11, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

Eleano (Gohnors

I gather from your prominent mention of my name in your memorandum to Jim Connor of September 10, 1976, that since your office could not get its request for new carpeting for the lower Press Office approved, you apparently have decided to "walk all over me" instead. I just wanted to assure you that I have no objection whatever to this because it saves unnecessary expenditure of the taxpayers' money, a policy of the President's which I, for one, fully support.

I hope I can continue to be of service to your office.

cc: Dick Cheney
Jim Cavanaugh
Jim Connor

WASHINGTON

September 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CONNOR

FROM:

RON NESSEN RULL

1. Please instruct Eleanor Connors and Sara Emery of your staff to handle briefing papers delivered to the Press Office in a more secure way than has been their custom in the past. They routinely drop these often sensitive briefing papers on desks or in "in" boxes when a member of my staff is not present to make sure the briefing papers are kept private and out of sight of the press. The way Sara and Eleanor have left briefing papers untended in the Press Office could lead to reporters seeing these private documents.

2. If you censor briefing papers delivered to the Press Office, I will instruct my staff to tell reporters, in response to queries about Presidential meetings, that we have no way to answer their questions because we have been cut off by the Staff Secretary's office from access to the necessary information.

cc: Dick Cheney Jim Cavanaugh

WASHINGTON

September 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CAVANAUGH

FROM:

RON NESSEN RHW

I am totally baffled by your unfounded accusation that someone in the Press Office leaked or showed a copy of the President's briefing paper for his meeting with Polish-Americans to a reporter from the Chicago Sun Times.

Who else in the White House had this briefing paper? I suspect several dozen copies of the paper were in circulation. My experience has been that the staff of the White House Press Office is far more careful of sensitive documents around reporters than most other members of other offices.

This is the second time in recent weeks that you have accused a member of the White House Press Office staff of leaking information to the press. There was no evidence in either case. I resent this, Jim. I'm not going to allow you to disparage or unfairly accuse members of my staff. This is the hardest working, most loyal and dedicated and most trustworthy group of people I have ever worked with anywhere. I have seen no evidence that any other office in the White House has a staff more loyal and trustworthy than mine.

If you seriously suspect my staff of what you have accused them of twice, the answer is not to cut off the information we need to do our job for the President; the answer is to have the President fire me and the rest of my staff this afternoon and build a new Press Office that you trust.

Should the President decide not to fire the Press Office today, the answer to your question is: The person in the Press Office who can be held accountable in this and all other matters is named Ron Nessen.

cc: Dick Cheney Jim Connor